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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE, GW
SUBJECT: CSCE: OPPOSITION ATTACKS BRANDT'S STATEMENTS
AT SOCIALIST SUMMIT

REFS: A. THE HAGUE 2002 (NOTAL); B. THE HAGUE 2015
(NOTAL); C. BONN 05340 (NOTAL)

1. CDU/CSU OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN HAVE JUMPED ON SI
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PRESIDENT AND SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT'S COMMENTS AT
THE WEEKEND AMSTERDAM SOCIALIST SUMMIT (REFS A & B) ON
THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE AND DEMANDED THAT
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM BRANDT'S
"MISGUIDED" POSITION.

2. CDU/CSU FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN MARX CHARGED THAT

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BRANDT WANTED TO AVOID A SERIOUS LOOK AT INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT BELGRADE BECAUSE IT MIGHT DISTURB DETENTE. MARX CONTINUED THAT THE CDU/CSU SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DETENTE, BUT RATHER AN INSOLUBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO. MARX CHARGED FURTHER THAT BRANDT'S LINE DAMAGED CREATION OF A UNIFIED WESTERN LINE. ACCORDING TO MARX, THE CDU/CSU WANTS THE WEST TO DRAW "AN OPEN AND UNSPARING BALANCE" AT BELGRADE.

3. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING WAS QUOTED IN "DIE WELT" SAYING THAT SCHMIDT AND BRANDT AGREED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, WITH WHICH THEY BOTH SYMPATHIZED, SHOULD NOT BE USED AT BELGRADE AS A CLUB AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. RATHER, ONLY A CONSISTENT CONTINUATION OF DETENTE POLICY IMPROVED THE CHANCES OF DOING SOMETHING FOR VICTIMS OF REPRESSION IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

4. COMMENT: THE MOST RECENT FLARE-UP BETWEEN OPPOSITION AND GOVERNMENT OVER THE PROPER APPROACH TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC POLEMICS IN THE FRG ON THIS ISSUE (REF C). TAKING ITS CUE FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE CDU/CSU HAS BEEN PORTRAYING ITSELF AS THE REAL CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FRG, URGING A RELUCTANT GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK OUT AND STAND UP TO THE COMMUNIST-RULED STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE. THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS CONTINUED TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON THE HUMAN
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RIGHTS ISSUE, FEARFUL THAT THE DEMONSTRABLE BENEFITS WHICH DETENTE HAS BROUGHT TO MANY ETHNIC GERMANS PERMITTED TO EMMIGRATE FROM THE EAST WOULD BE LOST IF EAST-WEST RELATIONS GREW TENSE AGAIN.

THE GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE FACED WITH A DELIMMA. AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE AMSTERDAM SI CONFERENCE TOLD US, WILLY BRANDT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE THE GERMAN CONSERVATIVES ARE USING PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS STAND TO ATTACK THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S "OSTPOLITIK." HE FEELS THAT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SUPPORTED BY " THE WRONG PEOPLE FOR THE WRONG REASONS." TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM, BRANDT HAS SOUGHT TO ATTACK THE OPPOSITION PARTIES' POSITION WITHOUT ATTACKING PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY. IN THE AMSTERDAM PRESS CONFERENCE HE WAS LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL.

BRANDT FEARS THAT THE GERMAN OPPOSITION PARTIES

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ARE SUCCEEDING IN PORTRAYING THE CHOICE AS ONE OF EITHER SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS OR SUPPORTING COMMUNISM. HE FINDS IT EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT TO BE FORCED INTO A CORNER ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE HE FEELS HE HAS CHAMPIONED HUMAN RIGHTS FOR YEARS. STOESSEL

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